

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA - 1100

MAGI-0311004731

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Cross - Gable (Ashby House)

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

42 W. Chesapeake Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

\_\_\_ SITE

\_\_\_ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

\_\_\_ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

\_\_\_ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_ NO

#### PRESENT USE

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

\_\_\_ PARK

\_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_ OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Equitable Trust Bank

Telephone #: 828-7927

STREET & NUMBER

401 Washington Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Towson

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New Courts Building

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Summer, 1978</u>

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The location of this house, on the block just East of the Courthouse, is one which has seen some of Towson's heaviest high rise development. The little frame house is nearly obliterated by its brick and cinder block additions and yet the whole structure is an outdated dwarf in the midst of giants.

Structural examination, early atlases and a 1953 photograph indicate that this was once one of a half dozen houses occupying a row of small, long and narrow lots.

The 1877 Atlas shows no other structure on this site than a tiny building that is probably a springhouse. The 1898 Atlas shows a brick building on John I. Yellott's land directly behind the Masonic Hall, however, it occupies the Southwest corner of the lot which is approximately where the Jennifer Building now stands. Undocumented oral history mentions a tavern on this site. The 1915 Atlas however, shows the subdivision of this land into six improved lots.

The original portion of the house is a two story frame structure, only two bays wide with a cross gable facade. The plan was T-shaped being composed of a main block that is two bays wide and two deep and a wing projecting in the rear (North) three bays long and one wide. A very narrow one bay extension telescopes from it.

All of the wings are two stories in height and capped with a slate gable-end roof. When viewed from the top of the eight story building next door, the roof appears cruciform in shape because of the cross-gable.

The original siding is beneath the modern exterior covering. On portions of the building one can see beveled clapboards.

The fenestration was very regular although the windows themselves have been altered and even closed-up in places. The gables are vented by square louvered vents.

A flue chimney exits the roof of the North wing at the ridge approximately 2/3 of the distance from the front to back.

The South facade was the main or street facade. A 1953 photograph in the possession of Mr. Green (present occupant) shows that this facade was the most decorative. In addition to the cross-gable there was a porch covering the first story and somewhat unusual fenestration. The porch floor was supported by brick piers and its roof by three square columns. It was partially enclosed by a railing with square balusters. An entrance occupied the East bay and it had a 2-light transom. A double window with two 1/1 sash occupied the West bay. It was topped by a round arch window. The upstairs was vented by a centrally located row of three 1/1 windows.

The interior contains little or no original fabric. According to the occupant the house was one room in width and had a telescoping room arrangement which began in the front with a parlor that led into a dining room and then a kitchen. There were three rooms above as well.

There is a stone basement of the same size as the frame house above. The walls of the cellar are made of uncoursed rubble. Circular sawn joists were observed with braces fixed with cut nails.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1100

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1898-1915

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although commercial alterations have nearly obliterated this wooden frame residential building one can climb the mid-rise parking facility next to it and see that it is an unusual cross-gable house.

The average cross-gable is an odd number of bays wide which is the end result of maintaining symmetry in a central hall plan. The cross-gable or "central pediment" lends itself to such an arrangement. Where there are an even number of bays there is more often than not a side-hall and parlor plan. In this house, however, there were only two bays and early photographs and oral history show that there are two bays of a single room to the main facade indicative of a longitudinal or "shot gun" plan.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

See Attachment

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

WAYNE C. NIELD, II  
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## TITLE SEARCH

Liber 1033, Folio 196 August 4, 1938  
Grantor: Elmer Haile & wife  
Grantee: Catherine D. Ashby & husband

Liber 576, Folio 140 June 27, 1923  
Grantor: Ellis Finkelstein  
Grantee: Elmer Haile

Beginning...Northernmost side of Chesapeake Ave. one foot easterly from  
the end of the first line of...J.I.Yellott to the Fitzpatrick lot.

Liber 558, Folio 368 July 29, 1922  
Grantor: Sallie C. Russell  
Grantee: Ellis Finkelstein

Liber 530, Folio 436 April 21, 1921  
Grantor: Frank & Leila Hettchen  
Grantee: Sallie C. Russell

Liber 525, Folio 369 May 20, 1920  
Grantor: Frank P. Fitzpatrick & wife  
Grantee: Frank & Leila Hettchen

Part of ground conveyed by John I. Yellott & wife to F. Fitzpatrick in 1909.

Liber 342, Folio 149 April 27, 1909  
Grantor: John I. Yellott & wife  
Grantee: Frank Fitzpatrick

One of three lots granted to John I. Yellott by George Yellott et. al. 1891

Liber 105, Folio 396  
Liber 188, Folio 41 April 25, 1891  
Liber 223, Folio 461  
Grantor: George Yellott  
Grantee: John I. Yellott

Cross Gable (Ashby)  
#42 W. Chesapeake Ave

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COPYRIGHT MAP DIVISION - 1967  
MD DEPT OF ASSESS & TAX

TOWSON  
SCALE 1"=200'

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION  
TAX MAP DIVISION

MENTAL SHEET 70A

MAP NO  
70A

BALTIMORE COUNTY

MENTAL SHEET 70A



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CROSS-CABLE  
#42 W. CHESAPEAKE  
N.

W. NIELD  
SUM-78





BA-1100

CROSS-CABLE  
#42 W. Chesapeake Ave  
E.

W. NIELD  
SUM-78